

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group

Virtual Meeting Summary

October 31, 2023

Attendees

- Adriane Borgias, WA Dept of Ecology
- Andrea Sumerau, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Andrew Swanson, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Andy Maher, WA Dept of Ecology
- Annie Byerley, Walla Walla County Conservation District
- Ashley Zanolli, EPA R10
- Becky Garnett, EPA R10
- Ben Jarvis, ID Dept of Environmental Quality
- Bob Derber, Private Citizen
- Bonnie Yoshizaki, ID Dept of Environmental Quality
- Brandon Rogers, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Brian DeDoncker, Clark County, WA
- Brian Haug, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Brian Muegge, Salmon-Safe
- Bridgette Lohrman, EPA R10
- Cailin Sinclair, Oregon State University
- Caleb Shaffer, EPA R9
- Cameron Kockritz, Office of Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez
- Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Casey Flanagan, Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Casey Lewis, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Catelyn Jones, EPA R10
- Catherine Corbett, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Catherine Gockel, EPA R10
- Cavan Gerrish, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Chauncey Means, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Clay Patmont, Lake Chelan Research Institute
- Craig Manahan, WA Dept of Ecology
- Crystal Elliot, Trout Unlimited
- Dan Kent, Salmon-Safe
- David Brooks, MT Trout Unlimited
- David Gruen, OR Dept of Environmental Quality
- David Primozich, The Freshwater Trust
- Dena Horton, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
- Deshon Dick, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)
- Dirk Helder, EPA R10
- Donna Silverberg, Donna Silverberg Consulting
- Dorie Sutton, City of Vancouver
- Elaine Harvey, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Elaine Hubal, EPA Office of Research and Development
- Elaine Placido, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Emerson Christie, WA Dept of Health
- Emilie Henry, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Eric Janney, USGS
- Erik Peterson, EPA R10
- Frances Gilliland, Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center
- Gary Bahr, WA Dept of Agriculture
- Genny Hoyle, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Gina Hoff, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Ginger Wireman, WA Dept of Ecology
- Grace Goldrick-Middaugh, OR Dept of Environmental Quality
- Greg Anderson, EPA R8
- Gunnar Johnson, EPA R10
- Hilary Cosentino, The Freshwater Trust
- Ian Waite, USGS
- Janell Shah, Yakama Nation
- Jared Glass, University of Montana
- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jen Bayer, USGS
- Jesse Naymik, Idaho Power
- Jessica Keys, Office of U.S. Senator Merkley
- John Hansen, USGS
- John Spencer, City of Nampa
- Jordan Tollefson, NorthWestern Energy
- Justin Greer, USGS
- Karen Schumacher, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Karl Rains, WA Dept of Ecology

- Kathleen Compton, EPA R10
- Kathryn Rifenburg, OR Dept of Agriculture
- Kelly Grant, CA Dept of Toxic Substances Control
- Kelly Hendrix, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Keri Handaly, City of Gresham
- Kevin Masterson, Stony Creek Consulting
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific RC&D
- Kris Olinger, City of Vancouver
- Krista Mendelman, EPA R10
- Kristine Carre, EPA R10
- Lara Christensen, Oak Lodge Water Services
- Laura Shira, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Lauren Locklear, City of Nampa
- Lauren McDaid, EPA R10
- Laurie Porter, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Linda Nemeth, Nez Perce Tribe
- Lisa Cox, OR Dept of Environmental Quality
- Lorri Epstein, Columbia Riverkeeper
- Marc Gauthier, Upper Columbia United Tribes
- Marcella Appel, Benton Conservation District
- Margaret Drennan, WA Dept of Agriculture
- Margaret Olson, EPA R10
- Mark Jankowski, EPA R10
- Mark Peterschmidt, WA Dept of Ecology
- Mary Engels, University of Idaho
- Mary Rose Morigeau, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Mason Murphy, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Megan Keating, Greater Hells Canyon Council
- Meghan Dunn, EPA R10
- Merritt Mitchell-Wajeeh, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Michelle Wilcox, EPA R10
- Molly Davis, Cascade Pacific RC&D
- Natalie Swan, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Nic Taylor, EPA R10
- Nikki Guillot, WA Dept of Health
- Ofilio Borges, WA Dept of Agriculture
- Patrick Moran, USGS
- Paula Calvert, Bonneville Power Administration
- Peter Brumm, EPA R8
- Peter Ismert, EPA R8
- Peter Murchie, EPA R10
- Peter Sandifer, Office of Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez
- Rachel Malison, Flathead Lake Biological Station/University of Montana
- Richard Janssen, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Robert Elleman, EPA R10
- Robin Atlin, Colville Confederated Tribes
- Robin Parker, EPA R10
- Ryan Gross, EPA R10
- Scott Schlieff, EPA R10
- Sarah Frederick, EPA R10
- Sarah Whitney, Long Tom Watershed Council
- Sean Payne, USGS
- Sherrie Duncan, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Sierra Higheagle, Nez Perce Tribe
- Stan Hoffman, WA Dept of Health
- Stephanie Gill, WA Dept of Ecology
- Stephanie Murphy, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Steve Waste, USGS
- Tamara Knudson, Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Tanya Williams, WA Dept of Ecology
- Tim Counihan, USGS
- Tim Wigington, The Freshwater Trust
- Travis Schmidt, USGS
- Whitney Fraser, Lodestone Consulting
- William Hobbs, WA Dept of Ecology
- Yvette Joseph, Colville Confederated Tribes
- Yvonne Vallette, EPA R10
- Greg Frey, Council Oak (facilitator)

WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW, & PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS

Peter Murchie, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager (murchie.peter@epa.gov) & **Greg Frey**, Council Oak (gfrey@thecounciloak.com)

Greg reviewed the agenda, discussed how attendees can participate in the day's program, and asked attendees to introduce themselves in the Teams chat.

Peter welcomed the group and announced that the Columbia River Team is welcoming two new team members. Michelle Wilcox will lead the Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program and Robin Parker will lead the Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group effort. Other team members include Nic Taylor, Lauren McDaid, Peter Brumm, Ashley Zanolli, and several other staff who support the grants program in EPA Regions 8 and 10. Peter also mentioned a recent [Presidential Memorandum](#) to protect salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin and how it mentions the program. Peter went on to highlight the recent site visit from EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator, Casey Sixkiller, to see the work that the Yakama Nation and Salmon-Safe are doing to certify farms and reduce toxics in the Basin. Peter stressed that EPA is looking for opportunities to work with others to promote partnerships and amplify grantee work across the Basin.

2023 GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

Lauren McDaid and **Nic Taylor**, EPA Region 10 Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Team (mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov; taylor.nicole@epa.gov)

Michelle Wilcox introduced Lauren and Nic and recognized all the hard work that applicants put into their responses to the requests for applications. She noted that EPA is awarding a total of \$72.1 million, with \$15.6 million going to Tribal governments.

Lauren described the eight tribal awards, providing \$15.6 million to seven different federally recognized Tribes. These grants will support a variety of work across the Basin in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Nic described the 10 Toxic Reduction Lead (TRL) grants that will create large-scale toxic reduction programs with the grantees providing sub-awards to amplify the benefits of these funds. EPA is awarding \$56.5 million to fund work in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming over the next 5 years.

Fact sheets with more information on the 2023 grants are available on [EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program web page](#). Interested parties should watch this web page for future funding opportunities. For general Columbia grants questions, please contact ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov.

PARTNER UPDATES FROM TRIBES, STATES, AND NONPROFITS AROUND THE BASIN

Tamara Knudson, Spokane Tribal Fisheries (tamarak@spokanetribe.com)

Tamara reviewed the goals and objectives of the Upper Columbia Basin Contaminant Status, Movement, and Remedial Pilot Study—to identify heavy metal concentrations across four media (surface water, bottom sediments, suspended sediments, and biofilm). The team is looking at 150 miles of river for sampling sites, but the biggest challenge so far is sediment trap construction. Tamara discussed the sediment trap they constructed and the hopes that it can be scaled up. The team is finalizing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), completing permit applications, and will build 14 additional sediment traps for sampling in the spring of 2024.

Tim Wigington, The Freshwater Trust (tim@thefreshwatertrust.org)

Tim described the challenge that the Mid-Snake Toxics and Runoff Reduction Program will work to solve—addressing methylmercury fueled by upstream runoff. The large agriculture industry in the Snake River Basin uses slope irrigation

practices which causes lots of excess water and runoff. This leads to anoxic conditions that create methylmercury. Farmers want to upgrade their irrigation systems, but the process is difficult to navigate and fund. The TRL grant from EPA will help The Freshwater Trust use [precision analytics](#) to identify priorities where implementing irrigation upgrades will provide the best results for the least amount of money.

Casey Lewis, Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC) (Casey.Lewis@mt.gov)

Casey described the mission of the WMCC and introduced the area of the Basin (western Montana) where they will focus their TRL work. Their efforts will focus on looking at: community research, septic leachate, stormwater pollution, and education & outreach. In addition, they will provide sub-awards for green stormwater infrastructure pilot projects.

Stephanie Gill, Washington Department of Ecology (stephanie.gill@ecy.wa.gov)

Stephanie described the Safety Products for Washington Program. The law for this program was signed in May 2019 and the goals are to equitably reduce exposure to toxic chemicals and prevent the release of those chemicals into the environment. New rules adopted in May 2023 place the strictest restrictions in the country on 10 product chemical combinations and add reporting requirements for four chemical combinations. Ecology is working to prioritize other chemicals and classes, including PFAS, and a report will be released for public comment in the winter of 2023–2024.

Ben Jarvis, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) (Ben.Jarvis@deq.idaho.gov)

Ben provided a brief update on IDEQ's pollution prevention round table. Idaho received a grant from EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants Program to host a workshop for R10 pollution prevention methods and a planning team related to PFAS. This effort focused on reducing PFAS through pollution prevention, purchasing acquisitions, and developing alternative products. IDEQ can borrow a lot of ideas from similar efforts in Washington and California. Anyone interested in these topics and framework should contact Ben to be added to the team.

EPA FUNDING LIGHTNING ROUND

IRA AND CLIMATE PROGRAMS — Kat Compton, EPA Region 10 Climate Coordinator (compton.kathleen@epa.gov)

Kat began by announcing two new pollution prevention grant awardees in R10—Portland State University and Washington Department of Ecology. Kat then described this once-in-a-generation opportunity for climate funding, with applications due soon. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants will be awarded in two phases. Phase 1 provided \$250 million for climate planning. Phase 2 will award \$4.6 billion for implementation, with \$300 million set aside for Tribes. Each state has a grant for climate planning, cities like Seattle and Portland also have grants for climate planning, and Tribes have grants for climate planning. These grants hope to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions by 2030, deliver substantial community benefits particularly for low-income/disadvantaged communities, pursue innovative policies, and complement other funding sources. An optional Notice of Intent to Apply is due February 1, 2024 (March 1, 2024 for Tribes and Territories). Applications are due March 1, 2024 (April 1, 2024 for Tribes and Territories).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE — Scott Schlieff, EPA Region 10 EJ Coordinator (Schlieff.Scott@epa.gov)

Scott described how Environmental Justice (EJ) efforts have a long history of emphasis at EPA and are a priority for the current administration. He then described multiple funding opportunities for EJ-related projects, including: Thriving Community Grant Makers (TCGM), Climate Justice Grants, Government to Government (G2G) (annual awards), and Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (CPS) (annual awards). To get alerts about funding opportunities, send a blank email to: JOIN-EPA-EJ@LISTS.EPA.GOV. Scott also encouraged attendees to connect with Region 10 Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) hosted at [University of Washington](#) and [Willamette Partnership and Portland State University](#) for support in applying for EJ funding and identifying relevant project partners. Scott concluded by demonstrating EJScreen, EPA's web-based mapping tool to identify areas where vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution.

- Link to EJScreen: <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>
- Link to the CEJST tool: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

- Link to EPA's EJ page that discusses various funding opportunities:
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>
- To sign up for updates from the Willamette Partnership/PSU EJ TCTAC: <https://willamettepartnership.org/ej-tctac/>
- To sign up for updates from the University of WA TCTAC: <https://deohs.washington.edu/cehe/>

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE — *Becky Garnett*, EPA Region 10 Emerging Contaminants Coordinator and *Ryan Gross*, EPA Region 10 Infrastructure Technical Assistance Coordinator (Garnett.Becky@epa.gov; Gross.Ryan@epa.gov)

Becky and Ryan described funding opportunities for infrastructure, technical assistance, and emerging contaminants. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides specific funding through state-delegated State Revolving Funds (SRF) and a Tribal set-aside. Nationally, EPA plans to award \$1 billion to address Clean Water SRF emerging contaminants. Communities can access this funding through State Clean Water SRF programs with IDEQ, Oregon DEQ, Washington Department of Energy, Montana Department of Natural Resources, and the Indian Health Service. Eligible activities include: planning for capital development, installation for treatment controls, and stormwater controls like retrofits to address 6PPD-Q and other emerging contaminants. Technical assistance can help smaller communities apply and get over administrative hurdles.

BROWNFIELDS — *Margaret Olson*, EPA Region 10 Brownfields Coordinator (Olson.Margaret@epa.gov)

Margaret explained that brownfields are properties that are “stuck without redevelopment options” due to real or perceived contamination. EPA has six different pots of funding to address brownfields and works closely with state programs in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Funding can be used to address a wide range of cleanups (e.g., petroleum, asbestos, mine-scarred lands, etc.). Annual funding applications are typically due in mid-November each year and take several months for applicants to prepare.

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM SCIENCE AND MONITORING — *Peter Murchie*, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager

Peter pointed out that EPA is very aware of the needs of science and monitoring in the Columbia Basin. He also gave thanks for the work of the Toxics Monitoring Subgroup. CRBRP is planning to release a multi-million-dollar Request for Applications (RFA) for science and monitoring this fiscal year (FY2024) and the team is already working on plans for this funding. Stay tuned for more details.

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN EMERGING RESEARCH

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) PILOT RESULTS — *Elaine Cohen Hubal*, Research Lead, EPA Office of Research and Development (Hubal.Elaine@epa.gov)

Elaine described the widespread challenges many jurisdictions currently face identifying and characterizing the extent of PFAS contamination and human exposure. Better understanding PFAS levels in fish tissue is of particular concern in the Columbia Basin because Tribal communities have high rates of fish consumption and thus higher exposure risks. This project involves two phases to help address these challenges: 1) developing a geospatial prioritization workflow (complete); and 2) piloting a tiered analytical screening approach (ongoing). Using publicly available information on fish tissue, land use, and potential sources - much of which is accessible via EPA's PFAS Analytic Tools (<https://echo.epa.gov/trends/pfas-tools>) - EPA applied random forest models to predict PFAS in fish tissue at points along major waterbodies in WA and OR. EJ vulnerability scores were also included to help jurisdictions determine locations for future sampling. Elaine's team published results of this effort in September (see [Using Geospatial Data and Random Forest to Predict PFAS Contamination in Fish Tissue in the Columbia River Basin, United States](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9500000/)) and work will continue on the analytical screening approach. The pilot did not investigate PFAS exposure from other locally harvested food (e.g., camas, venison, huckleberries, etc.) although interest in this area likely warrants additional studies.

6PPD RESEARCH SUMMARY — *Catherine Gockel*, Region 10 Puget Sound Program Team Lead
(Gockel.Catherine@epa.gov)

Catherine described how vehicle tires contain the chemical 6PPD, which becomes 6PPD-Quinone when it interacts with the air. 6PPD-Q is toxic to coho salmon. Bioinfiltration and green infrastructure (such as rain gardens and stormwater retrofits) can prevent lethal stormwater impacts to salmon (coho). EPA has a 6PPD-Q workgroup, Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, and other groups working on this issue. EPA is planning a nationwide Tribal listening session on 6PPD-Q next month, conducting research to learn data gaps, and plans to have a draft 6PPD-Q analytical method for surface water/stormwater posted on the website in early November. Learn more about EPA's work on 6PPD-Q here: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/6ppd-quinone>.

ROUND ROBIN PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Working Group members were invited to share announcements, ask for help, celebrate achievements, or present anything else they would like to share with the group.

- Chris Hathaway (Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership) expressed excitement about the new TRL grant. LCEP will use the funds to implement green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff on school grounds and parking lots.
- Keri Handaly (City of Gresham/Clean Rivers Coalition) is working to educate landscapers to better understand the risks of a “weed-and-feed” product that could be a source of pollution. The landscaping community is very interested in more education and training. Oregon Clean Rivers Coalition also partnered with Dianne and Jeremy at CRITFC to create a River Connection film series which can be found on the *Follow the Water* website for Oregon and SW WA residents (<https://followthewater.info/>). The video was made by Metro East Community Media and won an award for Best Oregon Documentary recently! THANK YOU CRITFC!
- Dan Kent (Salmon-Safe) is excited to gear up their program work to support the new TRL grant and is looking to fill a program manager position in the interior Columbia Basin: https://salmonsafe.org/program_manager/
- Genny Hoyle (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho) shared that KTOI has a plan in place to clean up Ambush Rock, a site sacred to the Tribe, and thanked EPA staff and everyone else who helped the Tribe receive the new funding.
- Sherrie Duncan (Yakama Nation Fisheries) provided an update on the pilot study of the long-term monitoring plan for the Columbia River mainstem. The Tribe has completed fish tissue and sediment sampling, but does not have results yet. The Tribe is also starting two new EPA grants.
- Sarah Whitney (Long Tom Watershed Council) is continuing to engage with large industrial businesses to voluntarily install stormwater BMPs in the McKenzie and Willamette River watersheds, thanks to EPA funding.
- Marc Gauthier (Upper Columbia United Tribes) expressed excitement for the new EPA grant to develop a comprehensive toxics reduction strategy for the Upper Columbia. Marc will be reaching out to many folks to help build this strategy and the Tribes want to be as comprehensive as possible as they prioritize how to address toxics issues. Marc welcomed anyone who wants to reach out to help and noted that these calls are inspiring and helpful to hear what others are working on.
- Kevin Masterson (Stony Creek Consulting) shared that third-party product labeling and certification programs (EPA Safer Choice, Green Seal, etc.) are making efforts to ensure any PFAS-containing products are not certified, but this is still an on-going and resource-intensive process. Kevin is working with the Responsible Purchasing Network to develop a PFAS-related guide for government procurement programs (as part of the ACWA Columbia Basin grant) that will cover a lot of consumer-type product categories. He is aware that other entities are working on product disclosure. In addition, there are product testing efforts focused on PFAS (e.g., <https://www.nd.edu/stories/to-protect-the-protectors/>) that will support these disclosure goals.

TOXICS MONITORING SUBGROUP (TMS) WORKSHOP UPDATE

***Jen Bayer*, USGS PNAMP Coordinator & TMS Co-chair (jbayer@usgs.gov)**

Jen described the three meetings of the TMS group this year. Meetings are open to new members. Email gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov to join the distribution list. The TMS team asked attendees what they wanted and one thing was

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that people wanted better knowledge of what was going on with monitoring in the Basin. TMS hosted a series of lightning talks to share ongoing work. The TMS team is also developing a monitoring matrix to show projects, parameters, methods, QAPPs, sampling locations, etc. The first version of the matrix is available online (<https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-toxics-monitoring-project-tracking-matrix>) and will be updated a few times per year. TMS is also working to create a monitoring dashboard and hopes to have a prototype available in December. TMS will host a December 5 workshop in Portland, OR, and is currently developing the agenda. The TMS website can be found here: <https://www.pnamp.org/project/toxics-monitoring-subgroup>.

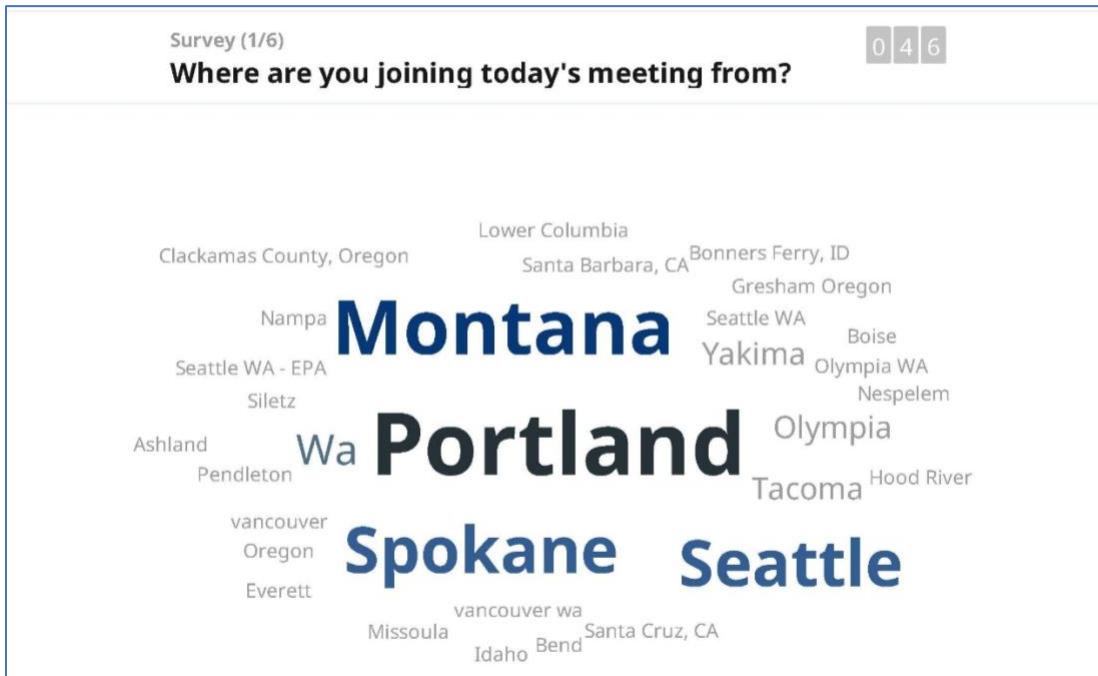
MAY 2024 MEETING PLANNING

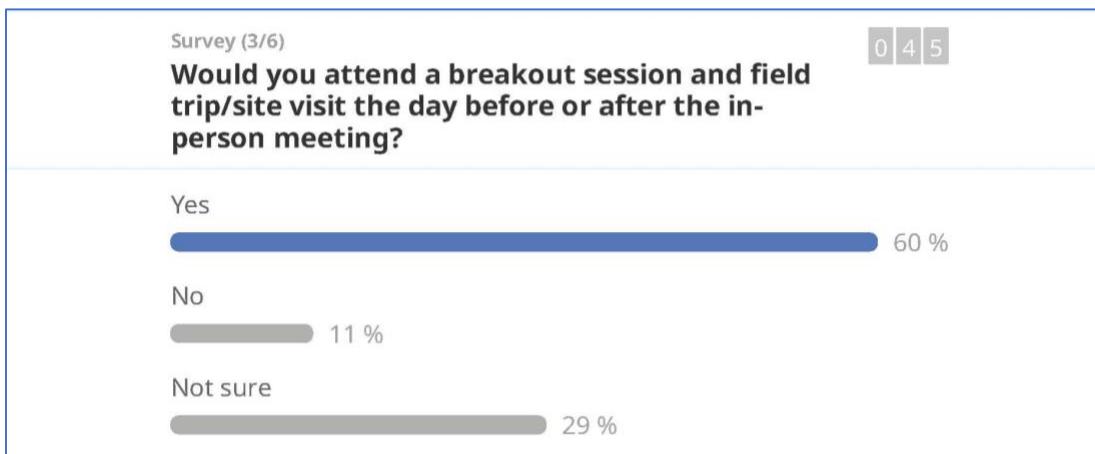
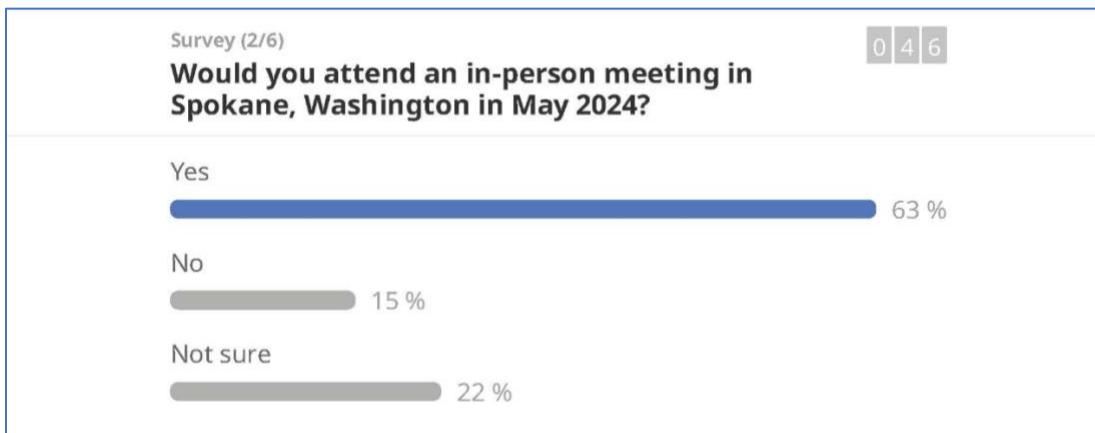
Robin Parker, EPA Columbia River Basin Team (parker.robin@epa.gov) and **Greg Frey**, Council Oak

Robin shared that EPA is considering a May 2024 meeting in Spokane, WA, and wants to gauge interest and ability of Working Group members to attend a 2-day, in-person meeting. One of the days would include breakout sessions and a possible tour or site visit. Working Group members identified the following known conflicts in May 2024:

April 29 – May 2 is the American Fisheries Society WA/BC/Idaho chapters meeting in Spokane; May 5 is the Bloomsday Run in Spokane, which is a weekend but might present difficulties finding hotels the next week; and that early May is still a busy fishing season for Tribes. A participant asked if EPA could help with travel or lodging costs. Peter Murchie clarified that travel costs are allowable for CWA Section 123 grant recipients, but EPA cannot support travel for others.

Greg presented a series of questions to the group using an online polling tool. Responses to the specific questions are presented below.





Survey (5/6)

0 3 4

What do you think is most valuable about these working group meetings?
(1/4)

- Meeting people and networking
- Connecting with other groups
- Inspiration
- Allows for more organic open discussion, is very informative and thought provoking about opportunities for improvement perhaps otherwise not considered
- updates about projects and funding opportunities
- It's helpful to hear what everyone else
- is working on, and funding opportunities
- Networking, idea sharing, science sharing and future ideas for work to reduce toxics
- Exchange of information and experiences, as well as identifying collaboration opportunities.
- Information sharing and learning best practices
- Networking, learning from one another, developing ideas to partner

Survey (5/6)

0 3 4

What do you think is most valuable about these working group meetings?
(2/4)

- Getting to talk in person with other people doing similar work to help develop a network of people to help bounce ideas around with.
- Collaboration, partnership building, ideas sharing
- Networking and information sharing
- learning about new projects
- Information about others' projects.
- Project awesomeness!
- Just keeping up with all the good stuff
- Networking, collaboration
- Learning about what others in the CRB are doing and having time to interact and network in person.
- Opportunities to develop new and grow existing relationships and contacts across the Basin through in-person contact.
- Hearing about efforts across the Basin

Survey (5/6)

0 3 4

What do you think is most valuable about these working group meetings?
(3/4)

so we can coordinate and collaborate

- Learning and networking
- Engaging with other organizations doing projects, learning about what they are doing, similar and different techniques and approaches, opportunities to engage and build relationships.
- collaboration and sharing success stories networking
- hearing and learning about the

great work of partners; celebrating and amplifying that work; making connections and building relationships

- Connections. There has been a dramatic increase in monitoring and source reduction efforts in the basin since the Sec123 funding began; having time to hear and connect with others is important.
- Networking with partners, learning

Survey (5/6)

0 3 4

What do you think is most valuable about these working group meetings?
(4/4)

about new funding opportunities, Tribal perspectives, technical updates from experts

- Love hearing what everyone is working on and the related questions.
- Personal interactions and developing ideas together. Learning from people in conversation.
- Hearing about all projects and funding opportunities.
- Getting resource information to

improve environmental conditions and public health in our Tribal communities.

- Hearing about all the great work going on within the very large basin
- Engagement and collaboration opportunities.
- Seeing everyone in person and having the side conversations.

Survey (6/6)

0 | 2 | 0

What would you most like to hear about or share with the group at the May 2024 Working Group meeting?

(1/4)

- Later May is better than early. Tribal fishing for spring run still ongoing.
- Projects being worked on and best practices
- Success stories
- Projects goals. Means and methods being utilized. Project progress. Lessons learned
- Offering to share data about previous pavement ability to reduce 6podq
- Regional pollution prevention and source reduction partnerships - information sharing and brainstorming
- Addressing 6PPD-Q, infrastructure to filter toxins from ground and surface waters
- Success stories and lessons learned for scalable and repeatable watershed restoration objectives.
- What the local tribes are facing

Survey (6/6)

0 | 2 | 0

What would you most like to hear about or share with the group at the May 2024 Working Group meeting?

(2/4)

as it relates to toxics in their watersheds and actions that are being taken to address them.

- 6ppf
- A status report/update about the size of the wild runs of salmon and steelhead in the watershed
- Updates from current grant holders
- The lead agencies and tribal lead project progress
- advancements in our

grant implementation and lessons learned for others; hearing more about program development by our partners and how we can support that.

- continued updates, if we're meeting in person, is there targeted feedback on funding or implementation that EPA would find useful going forward? Are we

Survey (6/6)

0 2 0

What would you most like to hear about or share with the group at the May 2024 Working Group meeting?

(3/4)

ready to talk about a more cohesive strategy for toxics monitoring in the basin; perhaps this is better left to the monitoring subgroup.

- If meeting is in Spokane, it would be great to hear about local water quality protection and toxins reduction efforts in north eastern WA, Idaho Panhandle and The Palouse
- Status of current projects,

hopes for the future.

- Not sure yet.
- An update on our work to collectively address the environmental nature of the Columbia River and other tributaries.
- Maybe a QAPP workshop? I know not everyone's favorite but it is a necessary evil for the grant process.

Survey (6/6)

0 2 0

What would you most like to hear about or share with the group at the May 2024 Working Group meeting?

(4/4)

I am having a difficult time getting mine finished due to time restraints and lack of helpful development options.

CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN

Peter Murchie, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager

Peter reiterated that EPA is excited to support the growth of so many toxics reduction programs across the Basin. The infusion of \$72 million of grant funds will drive lots of great work. EPA is ready and willing to help with projects, policy questions, and more, so please reach out if assistance is needed. Peter encouraged anyone with suggestions for how EPA can support them, tell their stories, or amplify their work, to reach out to the team.